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EXAMINER

BHARADWAJ, KALPANA

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/769,155	Applicant(s) VEPREK ET AL.	
	Examiner KALPANA BHARADWAJ	Art Unit 2129	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered July 31, 2008 for the patent application 10/769155 filed on Jan 30, 2004.
2. All prior office actions are fully incorporated into this Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 1-80 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

4. 35 U.S.C. §101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The invention as disclosed in claims 1-80 is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

5. None of the claims is limited to practical applications (i.e., practical utility.)
Examiner finds that *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 31 USPQ2d 1754 (Fed. Cir. 1994) controls the 35 U.S.C. §101 issues on that point for reasons made clear by the Federal Circuit in *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.*, 50 USPQ2d 1447 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Specifically, the Federal Circuit held that the act of:

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...[T]aking several abstract ideas and manipulating them together adds nothing to the basic equation. *AT&T v. Excel* at 1453 quoting *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Examiner finds that Applicant's "information notification" references are just such abstract ideas.

6. Examiner bases her position upon guidance provided by the Federal Circuit in *In re Warmerdam*, as interpreted by *AT&T v. Excel*. This set of precedents is within the same line of cases as the *Alappat-State Street Bank* decisions and is in complete agreement with those decisions. *Warmerdam* is consistent with *State Street*'s holding that:

Today we hold that *the transformation of data, representing discrete dollar amounts, by a machine through a series of mathematical calculations into a final share price*, constitutes a practical application of a mathematical algorithm, formula, or calculation because it produces 'a useful, concrete and tangible result' -- *a final share price momentarily fixed for recording purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades*. (emphasis added) *State Street Bank* at 1601.

7. True enough, that case later eliminated the “business method exception” in order to show that business methods were not per se nonstatutory, but the court clearly *did not* go so far as to make business methods *per se statutory*. A plain reading of the excerpt above shows that the Court was *very specific* in its definition of the new *practical application*. It would have been much easier for the court to say that “business methods were per se statutory” than it was to define the practical application in the case as “...the transformation of data, representing discrete dollar amounts, by a machine through a series of mathematical calculations into a final share price...”

8. The court was being very specific.

9. Additionally, the court was also careful to specify that the “useful, concrete and tangible result” it found was “a final share price momentarily fixed for recording purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades.” (i.e. the trading activity is the further practical use of the real world monetary data beyond the transformation in the computer – i.e., “post-processing activity”.)

10. Applicant cites no such specific results to define a useful, concrete and tangible result. Neither does Applicant specify the associated practical application with the kind of specificity the Federal Circuit used.

11. Furthermore, in the case *In re Warmerdam*, the Federal Circuit held that:

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...[T]he dispositive issue for assessing compliance with Section 101 in this case is whether the claim is for a process that goes beyond simply manipulating 'abstract ideas' or 'natural phenomena' ... As the Supreme Court has made clear, '[a]n idea of itself is not patentable, ... taking several abstract ideas and manipulating them together adds nothing to the basic equation'. In re Warmerdam 31 USPQ2d at 1759 (emphasis added).

12. Since the Federal Circuit held in *Warmerdam* that this is the “dispositive issue” when it judged the usefulness, concreteness, and tangibility of the claim limitations in that case, Examiner in the present case views this holding as the dispositive issue for determining whether a claim is “useful, concrete, and tangible” in similar cases. Accordingly, the Examiner finds that Applicant manipulated a set of abstract “how a notification is to be delivered to the user” to solve purely algorithmic problems in the abstract (i.e., what exactly does ‘how’ mean? What are the possible values of ‘how a notification is delivered’? What is the ‘delivery module’? It appears to be software *per se*) Clearly, a claim for delivery by “selecting how a modification is to be delivered ... where the delivery is selected based on the activity information” is provably even more abstract (and thereby less limited in practical application) than pure “mathematical algorithms” which the Supreme Court has held are per se nonstatutory. The applicant clearly needs to further limit the claims to *‘what kind of activity information’ is being used and what are the resulting methods*.

13. Since the claims are not limited to exclude such abstractions, and include limitations that would be considered concrete and tangible, the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim limitations includes such abstractions. Therefore, the claims are impermissibly abstract under 35 U.S.C. §101 doctrine.

14. Claims 1-80 are, thereby, rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

16. Claims 1-80 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hussain (USPN 2002/0037750, referred to as **Hussain**).

Claim 1, 36:

Hussain teaches an information notification system (**Hussain**, ¶ 0018: provide notification), comprising:

an input receptive of activity information indicating an activity of a user received from a device associated with the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: event reception; ¶ 0076: Data Collection Module (DCM)) of at least one of:

a delivery module operable to select how a notification is to be delivered to the user from a plurality of predetermined delivery methods, where the delivery method is selected based on the activity information **Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Realtime Delivery Module (RDM));

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a delivery module operable to determine a manner of notification delivery based on at least one of the user activity category and the user environment category

(**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Realtime Delivery Module (RDM)); and

an output operable to communicate a notification to the user in accordance with the selected delivery method (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Service Execution Module (SEM);

EN: The 'execution' module would output in accordance with the manner of delivery).

Claim 2, 37:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user activity identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user activity categories based on sensed user activity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: Data Collection Module).

Claim 3, 38:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 2, further comprising a user activity sensing module operable to sense user interaction with an electronic device via the electronic device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0046: equipment capable of receiving signals; **EN**: 'receiving signals' would mean sensing).

Claim 4, 39:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 2, further comprising a user activity sensing module operable to sense user interaction with a user environment via an electronic device proximate to the user environment and having a sensory function (**Hussain**, ¶

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0048: information associated with a particular mobile subscriber; **EN:** The subscriber information would be the sensed interaction).

Claim 5, 40:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user activity identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user activity categories based on a time-specific user activity schedule and a current time (**Hussain**, ¶ 0015: realtime information).

Claim 6, 41:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user activity identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user activity categories based on learned user behavior patterns resulting from monitored user activity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0111: adapted to recognize; **EN:** 'adapt' is to learn, and 'recognize' is to identify a behavior pattern).

Claim 7, 42:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user environment identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user environment categories based on a user location and predefined environment categories associated in a datastore with at least one location (**Hussain**, ¶ 0058: subscription event of the user and stores it in engine memory 210A or database).

Claim 8, 43:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 7, further comprising a user location sensing module operable to sense the user location based on a global positioning system function of a portable electronic device of the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0103: cell global identity information).

Claim 9, 44:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 7, further comprising a user location sensing module operable to sense the user location based on a time-specific and location-specific user activity schedule and a current time (**Hussain**, ¶ 0104: location update).

Claim 10, 45:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 7, further comprising a user location sensing module operable to sense the user location based on user interaction with an electronic device at a known location (**Hussain**, ¶ 0104: location update; ¶ 0022: interaction between telecommunications operators).

Claim 11, 46:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user environment identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user

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environment categories based on sensed environmental stimuli in proximity to the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0049: predefined services to be generated).

Claim 12, 47:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user environment identification module operable to select at least one of plural, predefined user environment categories based on learned environment behavior patterns resulting from monitored environment behavior (**Hussain**, ¶ 0111: adapted to recognize; **EN**: 'adapt' is to learn, and 'recognize' is to identify a behavior pattern).

Claim 13, 48:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine the manner of notification delivery based on an information category relating to the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0140: notification upon the calling of a preselected number; **EN**: the preselected number could determine the manner).

Claim 14, 49:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 13, further comprising an information categorization module operable to select at least one of plural information categories based on a priority of the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0051: customized according to the realtime status of the user; **EN**: The customizing rules would include priority).

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Claim 15, 50:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 14, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine the manner of delivery based on a comparison between the priority of the notification and a priority relating to a user activity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0051: customized according to the realtime status of the user; **EN**: The customizing rules would include priority comparison).

Claim 16, 51:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 13, further comprising an information categorization module operable to select at least one of plural information categories based on a confidentiality level of the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0051: intelligence factor 248 necessary to satisfy; **EN**: intelligence factor would include confidentiality).

Claim 17, 52:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 13, further comprising an information categorization module operable to select at least one of plural information categories based on content of the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0021: content providers).

Claim 18, 53:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 13, further comprising an information categorization module operable to select at least one of plural information categories based on at least one medium of the notification selected from at least one of audio,

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video, text, image, vibration, sound, and light emission (**Hussain**, ¶ 0099: display text, play a tone).

Claim 19, 54:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine whether a manner of delivery is available that satisfies predetermined conditions relating to convenience, courtesy, timeliness, naturalness, and safety (**Hussain**, ¶ 0094: predetermined time interval; ¶ 0051: requisite conditions), wherein the manner of delivery relates to a medium of the notification in view of communication capabilities of eligible devices, wherein the medium is selected from at least one of audio, video, text, image, vibration, sound, and light emission (**Hussain**, ¶ 0099: display text, play a tone).

Claim 20, 55:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 19, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine that communication of an attention grabbing gesture (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: usage and behavior patterns) satisfies the predetermined conditions (**Hussain**, ¶ 0051: requisite conditions).

Claim 21, 56:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 20, wherein said input is further receptive of a user response to the attention grabbing gesture (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: usage and

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behavior patterns), and said delivery module is operable to determine whether a manner of delivery is available that satisfies the predetermined conditions based on the user response (**Hussain**, ¶ 0117: response message informing the B2B engine).

Claim 22, 57:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 19, wherein said delivery module is operable to delay communication of the notification until the predetermined conditions are satisfied (**Hussain**, ¶ 0126: delays and/or processing).

Claim 23, 58:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 19, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine that communication of a full version of the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0018: information is included with the notification) satisfies the predetermined conditions (**Hussain**, ¶ 0094: predetermined time interval; ¶ 0051: requisite conditions).

Claim 24, 59:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 19, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine that communication of a summarized version of the notification satisfies the predetermined conditions (**Hussain**, ¶ 0034: network node notification; **EN**: a notification node is a summarized version of the notification).

Claim 25, 60:

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Hussain teaches the system of claim 19, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine whether a manner of delivery is available that satisfies the predetermined conditions based on at least one communication capability of at least one device eligible to communicate the notification to the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0035: illustrates the communications of realtime information).

Claim 26, 61:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a device eligibility assessment module operable to assess eligibility of devices to communicate the notification to the user (**Hussain**, Fig 6: Operation and Maintenance Module).

Claim 27, 62:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 26, wherein said delivery module is operable to select one of plural eligible devices to communicate the notification based on varying communication capabilities of the eligible devices (**Hussain**, Fig 6: Operation and Maintenance Module).

Claim 28, 63:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 27, wherein said delivery module is operable to assess communication capabilities of the eligible devices based on a user preference expressed by the user respective of communication via the eligible device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: current activity, preferences).

Claim 29, 64:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 26, wherein said device eligibility assessment module is operable to identify eligibility of a device based on observation of the user via a sensory mechanism of the eligible device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0018: signaling capacity usage; **EN**: signaling capacity is a sensory mechanism).

Claim 30, 65:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 26, wherein said device eligibility assessment module is operable to identify eligibility of a device based on detection of user interaction with the device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0116: status of a telecommunications device; q7 the status would be based on the user interaction with the device).

Claim 31, 66:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 26, wherein said device eligibility assessment module is operable to identify eligibility of a device based on knowledge of common location of the user and the eligible device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0017: user location, user status).

Claim 32, 67:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said delivery module is operable to determine the manner of notification delivery based on a manually

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expressed user preference relating to communication of the notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: preferences, location, usage).

Claim 33, 68:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said input is further receptive of a user response to a delivered notification, the system further comprising a user response assessment module operable to observe emotional content of the user response based on response characteristics relating to intensity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0054: behavior information of subscribers), and to infer at least one of a favorable user reaction and an unfavorable user reaction to the delivered notification based on the emotional content, wherein said delivery module is operable to incorporate knowledge of a type of the user reaction into future communications with the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0054: interactions between the business-to-business ... elements of the network).

Claim 34, 69:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said delivery module is operable to discard expired notifications based on a comparison between a time of expiration associated with the notification and a current time (**Hussain**, ¶ 0094: the timer 472 expires).

Claim 35, 70:

Hussain teaches the system of claim 1, wherein said delivery module is operable to identify an older notification that has been superseded by a newer notification of similar type, and to discard the older notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: Operation and Maintenance Module).

Claim 71,

Hussain teaches a device enrollment method for use with an information notification delivery system, comprising:

establishing communication with an enrolling device over a communications network (**Hussain**, Fig 4: B2B Engine);

receiving device characteristic information from the enrolling device relating to device characteristics including device type and input/output capabilities of the device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Data Collection Module);

registering the device characteristic information in memory (**Hussain**, ¶ 0058: B2B engine memory);

transmitting an application programming interface to the enrolling device based on the device type that is operable to render the enrolling device compliant with notification delivery functionality of the notification delivery system (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: Interface Module).

Claim 72:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 71, wherein the application program interface causes the enrolling device to send its original notifications to the information notification delivery system (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: Interface Module).

Claim 73:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 71, wherein the application program interface causes the enrolling device to deliver notifications received from the information notification delivery system to users in accordance with instructions from the information notification delivery system (**Hussain**, ¶ 0086: notification is sent ... Event Forwarding Module).

Claim 74:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 71, wherein the application program interface causes the enrolling device to communicate captured sounds and images, user schedules, and device states to the information notification delivery system (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: Interface Module; ¶ 0084: event reception and processing module).

Claim 75:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the information notification system is at least one of:

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(a) maintained at a central location and adapted to register and employ plural devices

(**Hussain**, ¶ 0046: telecommunication system 230 ... cellular phones, personal data assistants ...); and

(b) maintained on at least two compliant devices of plural compliant devices in a

distributed fashion (**Hussain**, ¶ 0046: telecommunication system 230; **EN**:

telecommunication system is inherently distributed and maintains multiple compliant devices).

Claim 76:

Hussain teaches a method of operation for a device operable to perform information notification delivery in a convenient, courteous, timely, natural, and safe manner, comprising:

Receiving activity information indicating an activity of a user from a device associated with the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: usage and behavior patterns);

Selecting how a notification is to be delivered to the user from a plurality of predetermined delivery methods, where the delivery method is selected based on the activity information (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Realtime Delivery Module (RDM));

and

communicating the notification to the user in accordance with the manner of delivery (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a Service Execution Module (SEM)).

Claim 77:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 76, further comprising making a determination whether a manner of notification delivery is available that satisfies predetermined conditions relating to at least one of convenience, courtesy, timeliness, naturalness, and safety, wherein the determination includes evaluating a majority of the following information notification delivery categories: (a) an attention grabbing gesture (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: usage and behavior patterns); (b) a notification summary (**Hussain**, ¶ 0018: provide notification); and (c) a full notification (**Hussain**, ¶ 0018: provide notification).

Claim 78:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 77, further comprising:
communicating an attention grabbing gesture to the user (**Hussain**, ¶ 0043: usage and behavior patterns);
receiving user feedback in response to the attention grabbing gesture; and
making the determination based on the user feedback (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: a validation module (VM)).

Claim 79:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 76, further comprising:
sensing user activity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: an event reception and processing module); and

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selecting the user activity category based on the user activity (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: an event forwarding module).

Claim 80:

Hussain teaches the method of claim 76, further comprising:

sensing environmental stimuli in a vicinity of the device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: a data collection module);

sensing user collocation with the device (**Hussain**, ¶ 0084: a data collection module); and

selecting the user environment category based on the sensed stimuli (**Hussain**, ¶ 0076: a service development environment).

Response to Argument

17. Applicant's arguments filed July 31, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

18. Regarding Applicant's arguments on pages 21-22 :

Applicant's invention is a radical shift in paradigm.

Examiner's response:

A paradigm per se is abstract and is not statutory. It is the application of the paradigm to produce concrete, tangible and useful results, that would make it statutory. See 101 rejections.

19. Regarding Applicant's arguments on page 22, regarding claim 71:

Hussain fails to disclose downloading an API from the notification system.

Examiner's response:

The limitation "downloading an API" does not appear in the claimed limitations. The applicant is reminded that the claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of an invention.

Examination Considerations

20. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers or paragraph numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the Applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in their entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. The entire reference is considered to provide disclosure relating to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

21. Claims 1-80 stand rejected.
22. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KALPANA BHARADWAJ whose telephone number is (571)270-1641. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bharadwaj Kalpana/

Examiner, Art Unit 2129

/David R Vincent/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129